

VETERANS UPDATE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER, 2019

VA STRENGTHENS CAREGIVER SUPPORT



VA announced Sept. 25 actions to strengthen the Caregiver Support Program and establish a timeline for expanding the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

Under the MISSION Act, VA will expand the PCAFC to eligible Veterans from all eras using a phased approach. Currently, the program

is only available to eligible Veterans seriously injured in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

"Caregivers play a critical role in the health and well-being of some of our most vulnerable Veterans," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

The expansion will occur in two phases. Beginning in the summer of 2020, the first phase will expand

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Gloria Gemma Bus, Providence VAMC. Information, services and resources about breast cancer and women's health.

Oct. 25, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Veterans Employment Fair, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital.

PCAFC to eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975. The next phase, beginning two years later, will expand PCAFC to eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty after May 7, 1975 through Sept. 10, 2001.

Visit www.caregiver.va.gov or call Caregiver Support at 855-260-3274 for more information.

DON'T FLU AROUND — GET YOUR FLU SHOT!

VA encourages everyone age 6 months and older to get a flu shot each year as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

Flu shots are available and FREE to all enrolled Veterans at Primary Care and specialty clinics during appointments from Sept. 9, 2019 to May 31, 2020. Other options include walk-in service during specified hours at the Providence VA Medical Center, Eye Clinic, VA community clinics, and even Walgreens.

For more information, call the Providence Patient Call Center at 401-457-3336.



STAND DOWN WEEKEND - 2019



Thomas Walsh, a licensed practical nurse with Primary Care at the Providence VA Medical Center, gives an immunization to Veteran Antione Monteiro during Stand Down Weekend Sept. 21, 2019, at Diamond Hill State Park in Cumberland, R.I. (Providence VAMC photo by Kevin Price)

The Providence VA Medical Center participated in the Stand Down Weekend event Sept. 20 through 22 at Diamond Hill State Park, Cumberland, R.I.

More than 450 Veterans attended the event, which was organized and hosted by Opera-

tion Stand Down Rhode Island. Veterans attending the event were provided with access to services provided by OSDRI, the Providence VAMC, Providence VBA Regional Office, the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs and other federal, state and community partners.

"Operation Stand Down Rhode Island organizes and hosts Stand Down Weekend every year," said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VAMC. "We're grateful for the opportunity to provide health care to Veterans in need at the event, and for all the other services OSDRI arranges for Veterans who attend."

Services at the event included medical and mental health care, financial assistance, housing, legal, motor vehicle, employment and training.

The Providence VAMC's Homeless Patient-Aligned Care Team assessed and provided services to homeless Veterans during the event, including triage and medical care for Veterans. The HPACT team also provided vaccinations to 268 Veterans over the course of the weekend.



Tents at Stand Down Weekend Sept. 21, 2019, in Diamond Hill State Park, Cumberland, R.I. The event is a three-day military-style encampment for homeless and low-income Veterans. Services are provided by Operation Stand Down Rhode Island and other federal, state and community partners, including the Providence VA Medical Center. (Providence VA Medical Center photo)



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

Office of Community Care
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

VA Benefits Information
800-827-1000

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

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